

Remarks

Claims 1-37 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 5-7, 17, 26, and 30 are amended and claims 31-37 are added. In view of these amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1, 5-7, 17, 26, and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,124,912 issued to Hotaling et al. ("Hotaling"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Hotaling does not disclose, teach or suggest all the features of the claims. In particular, Applicants maintain that Hotaling does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed feature of "automatically updating the invitee's invitee profile based on the invitee's response to the invitation."

However, in order to advance the prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5-7, 17, 26, and 30. Claim 1, as amended, includes the features of "the electronic mail invitation includes a plurality of response options for the invitee to respond to the electronic mail invitation, wherein the plurality of response options includes accepting the electronic mail invitation and declining the electronic mail invitation" and "means for enabling the invitee to respond to the electronic mail invitation using at least one of the plurality of response options." At least these features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Hotaling.

Hotaling apparently discloses sending electronic mail invitation to invitees (See col. 3, lines 27-30 and col. 10, lines 11-27). However, this electronic mail invitation does not include any response option for the invitees. Accordingly, the invitees in Hotaling can not respond to the electronic mail invitation using a response option of the electronic mail invitation. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Hotaling.

Claims 5-7, 17, 26, and 30 include features similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these claims are also patentable over Hotaling, for at least the foregoing reason with regard to claim 1.

Claims 2-4, 8-16, 18-20, 23, 25, 27, 29, and 30 depend from and add additional features to one of the independent claims 1, 5-7, 17, 26, and 30. Because Hotaling does not

disclose, teach or suggest each of the features recited in the independent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims 2-4, 8-16, 18-20, 23, 25, 27, 29, and 30 are also patentable over Hotaling for at least the foregoing reason.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 21, 22, 24, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hotaling in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,974 issued to Tognazzini (“Tognazzini”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because neither Hotaling nor Tognazzini, alone or in combination with one another, teach or suggest all the features of the claims.

Dependent claims 21, 22, 24, and 28 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 1, 5-7, 17, 26, and 30. Hotaling does not disclose, teach or suggest all the features of independent claims 1, 5-7, 17, 26, and 30 for at least the foregoing reasons. Tognazzini apparently discloses a personal calendaring system that synchronizes calendar entries. However, Tognazzini does not make up for the deficiencies of Hotaling. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 21, 22, 24, and 28 are patentable over Hotaling in view of Tognazzini.

New Claims 31-37

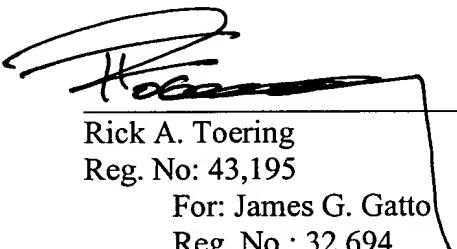
Newly added dependent claims 31-37 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 1, 5-7, 17, 26, and 30. Because Hotaling or Tognazzini, alone or in combination with one another, do not teach or suggest each of the features recited in independent claims 1, 5-7, 17, 26, and 30, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 31-37 are also patentable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,



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